

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's indication that claims 3 and 12 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim 2 has been amended to remove the term "arranged connectionless." Withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 13-17 have been rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 10250843. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

For purposes of Section 102(b), Applicant's international filing date of November 4, 2004 is Applicant's filing date. Because DE 10250843 was published on May 13, 2004, less than one year prior to Applicant's international filing date, DE 10250843 is not a proper Section 102(b) reference. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

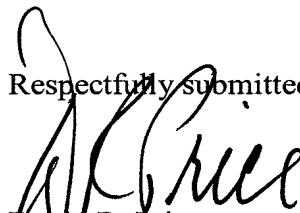
Claims 11 and 18 have been rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 10250843. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

DE 10250843 is also not a proper reference under Section 103(a). It is not a proper reference under Section 102(b), as explained above, and it is also not a proper reference under Section 102(a), so it cannot be considered a reference under Section 103.

At a minimum, Applicant is entitled to the February 5, 2004 filing date of Applicant's German application, DE 10 2004 005 731, to which this application claims priority, as Applicant's date of invention. To perfect this claim, Applicant encloses a certified translation of Applicant's International Application PCT/DE2004/002460. Because the disclosure of Applicant's DE 10 2004 005 731 is identical to that of PCT/DE2004/002460, this is also a certified translation of DE 10 2004 005 731. Applicant is therefore entitled to the benefit of the February 5, 2004 filing date of Applicant's German application as Applicant's date of invention. Because DE 10250843 was published after this date, it is not a proper reference under Section 102(a) or Section 103.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 1-18 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Price", written over the typed name.

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